

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

### No Paper Next Week

There will be no paper next week. Please read and remember this announcement, as it will save you and us unnecessary annoyance. We give our readers each fifty numbers of the EVANGELIST during the year. It so happens that next week a number can be missed to our best advantage, and hence no paper.

### Build Wisely

It is better to save souls than to collect disciples, to win men to Christ rather than to our opinions, however brilliant or original they may be. Of how much consequence are our opinions? And who will know, a hundred years hence what those opinions were? But a soul won for Christ will be of some consequence a thousand million years hence, and he will be likely to know very much of the humble instrumentality which pointed him to the way of life. Do work that will tell. Throw away the wood hay and stubble, and put in the better building material which lies right at hand in eternal abundance.

### The Gospel A Feast

The gospel of Christ is represented to us as a feast, and not as a feast only but a marriage feast. The gospel is a feast, the richest, the freest, the most bounteous, of all the feasts that have ever been spread before men. It is a plenteous feast, inexhaustible. At this banquet of the Lord the world may come and feed for all time to come, yet there will be abundance. The eternal years of God will not exhaust the resources of this heavenly feast. It is a feast of joy and gladness, not earthly joy, but sanctified joy, unalloyed joy, pure and sweet as heaven's blessed dew. Strange indeed that any one should refuse the invitation to come to this feast which whosoever eats and drinks thereof shall live forever.

### To the Churches of Ohio

Elsewhere in this issue Sister Keim refers to a matter which deserves more than a passing notice. It is important and all Sisters' Societies in the state should comply with the request of Sister Keim. Societies not able to be represented in person should be represented by letter accompanied by a complete report of the year's work. What is true of the Sisters' Society is equally true of every other society and organization of the Brethren church in Ohio. Both lay and ministerial credentials will be sent to all ministers in

the state, together with parochial and Sunday school blanks, which they are requested, either to fill out themselves or see that they are properly filled. This matter should not be overlooked. The State Conference will want to know, (1) How many churches in the state, (2) the number of members in each organization, (3) how many ministers who are pastors, (4) how many who are not pastors, (5) the number of Sisters' Societies and the membership of each, (6) the number of Sunday schools, (7) the number of King's Children Societies and membership of each, also other young people's societies. As soon as possible the churches in the state of Ohio need to learn "where they are at."

### Is It Patriotism?

For the last two Sabbaths there have been excursions from this place to Columbus, Ohio, where the volunteers of this state are in camp. The fare for the round trip is but \$1.25, about one-fifth the regular fare. Above 200 people from the town of Ashland left last Sabbath morning on this excursion. That means \$225 given to the railroad company for desecrating the Sabbath, and among these are professing Christian people. Is this an exhibition of the spirit of patriotism? It certainly is not. On the sacred day of rest, the day when God's people should be in the house of worship and as one man lift their hearts and voices in prayer to the God who guides and determines the destiny of nations, to spend this day in the manner indicated above is certainly not in harmony with the spirit of true patriotism. As a nation, God has graciously smiled upon us in the past; if we expect his favors in the future, we must have regard for his laws, and obey his will.

### Suggestive Only

The questions accompanying each lesson in the Sunday school quarterly are suggestive only. It is not meant that teachers should confine themselves entirely to them. To teach a lesson profitably and acceptably, a teacher needs to master the lesson so thoroughly that he can, in a moment, put the facts and truths of what he is to teach in the form of questions. There is but one essential to successful teaching in the Sunday school, and that is to know the lesson. Whether teachers and scholars are making use of the notes on the lesson as published each week in this paper we do not know; that they will find these notes and suggestions very helpful we do know. Permit us to call special attention to the questions on

the lesson in this week's paper, under the heading, "To Make You Think." Study them carefully. They are meant to bring out some great as well as practical religious truths.

### Study the Bible Intelligently

There is entirely too much of what may be called, for want of a better name, haphazard Bible study. The study of the sacred scriptures should be pursued intelligently. "Understandest thou what thou readest?" is as important and practical a question now as it was when Philip met the Ethiopian on his chariot reading the Old Testament scriptures. It is not the quantity, not even the quality, of the food we eat, that determines the nutritive value, but our power and capacity to appropriate and assimilate what we do eat. So it is in Bible study. It is profitable only as we are able to understand, to receive the truth, and make it part of our very selves. It is far better to read one verse, and read it intelligently, read it so that the truth it contains may find lodgment in the mind, bring a new joy to the heart, inspire a new purpose in the life, far better is this than to read a hundred chapters thoughtlessly, the mind wondering, and leaving, when read no impression either on the heart, mind or life. It always pays to be thorough in whatever we do, and especially so in the reading of God's holy word. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the reading of the blessed book.

### Promptly on Time

Since the first of the year 1898, the EVANGELIST has not been late once, except the week when the paper failed to reach us in time. If any of our readers have been getting their paper later than it ought to reach them, let them remember that it leaves our office Wednesday evening of each week. We hope to be able to keep up this record of promptness during the entire year. Our Sunday school literature too has been going out regularly, and even ahead of time. Our *Little Folks* for the month of May went out two weeks ago, while all the numbers of *Cheering Words* for the month of May, and one number for June, have also gone out. Our ability to get these papers out so promptly is due, very largely, to the faithfulness of the office crew, under the efficient leadership of Brother Slotter. Besides the regular weekly work of the office, we completed, a short time ago, a Cook Book for the Meyersdale S. S. C. E., the job consisting of 1,000 copies, eighty